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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 7050 AISW		REPORT NO. 270253-52-8748-A		PAGE 2 OF 11 PAGES	
PLACE Area N of NYROB	WAC NO. 100	FN	EVAL C-3	IN CODE NO.	
POLITICAL LOCATION MOLOTOVSKAYA O.		DESCRIPTIVE NAME OF REPORT Area Description of Forced Labor Camp Area N of NYROB			
SOVIET ECON. REGION URALS	PROPER NAME	IMENI	DATES OF INFORMATION FROM Aug 48 TO Jul 50		

I. PREAMBLE:

From Aug 48 to Jul 50 S was interned in several forced labor camps (unlocated) of the MVD area (NYROB - MVD # 521) between the VISHERA and PERCHORA Rivers N of NYROB (60 43 N - 56 44 E). Info supplied by S was based on his personal observations, unless otherwise indicated. He observed the town of NYROB only for 2 days.

II. LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:

Ref Incl 1, this Rpt, Overlay of WAC 100 of MT TEL'-POS-IZ (63 55 N - 59 10E) on which S identified the following pts:

1. NYROB. S was unable to draw a sketch of the town. The town consisted of several hundred single- and two-story block houses, a hospital, a club house and 2 sawmills. All buildings were of wood. The streets were not paved. Furthermore one forced labor camp was located within the town area. No RR connection. Road connection to the S, ref Pt 2, below. S had not seen any electric light in this area, but learned from fellow prisoners that there was an auxiliary power plant.
2. ROAD, led to SOLIKAMSK (59 40 N - 56 45 E). This 6 m wide dirt road could only be used during summer time.
3. KAMA RIVER. Fifty - 60 m wide, flat banks, slow current, navigable from May to Oct, during rest of year frozen, in winter used as road by trucks. Traffic was restricted to supply for forced labor camps in N of NYROB (ref Pt 6). All barges and motor boats belonged to MVD.
4. FERRY. Could carry 2 trucks.
5. ROAD. From NYROB to N. Several km N of the ferry (Pt 4) this dirt road ended. Trucks continued to drive about 20 more km to N, but there was no road.
6. FORCED LABOR CAMP AREA N OF NYROB, approx location. This was a virgin fir wood area. S never met any civilians in this area except those who were employed by the MVD. There was neither agriculture nor any industry going on. The only road (Pt 5) leading N from NYROB (Pt 1) "petered out" several km N of the ferry (Pt 4). A few paths which led through the woods were used by MVD patrols. Traffic depended entirely on the rivers, the biggest of which was the KOLVA River, about 50 m wide, flow from N to S. Most of the forced labor camps were located on one of the many branches of the KOLVA River. These rivers were 10 to 15 m wide, but as a rule navigable. S could not locate the rivers but learned that all camps of this district were located along the KOLVA River arms as far down to the N as the PECHORA River. (The "PECHORA CAMPS" were not controlled by this MVD district administration, located in NYROB). This entire district was administrated by the MVD HQ, called "NYROBLAG-MVD # 521". The HQ in NYROB received all orders, supplies, etc from MVD HQ in SOLIKAMSK. The NYROBLAG-MVD controlled about 30 forced labor camps, distributed over this area. Each camp held 800 to 1000 inmates. The only work was lumbering. The trunks were cut and then floated down the KOLVA River to the KAMA and VOLGA River. All camps were located close to rivers and often were moved after the trees of a certain area were cut. Several camps were of a more permanent character (as a rule some small storage sheds, a blacksmith shop and 2 to 3 block houses for a few civilians employed by the MVD were located close to these camps). S recalled the following names of such camps: VANKINA, GOLOVNOYE, YUZHNYAYA YELOVKA, VERKHNYAYA VOLNA, NIZHNYAYA VOLNA (locations unknown).

S supplied following info on the inmates of the camps: About 70 percent were Russians, 15 percent Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians, the rest Tartars, Mongols etc. The bulk of the inmates were criminal prisoners, many of them sentenced to 50 or even 100 and more years. The political prisoners, about 25 percent of the total, included the above-mentioned Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians, the majority of the rest were Soviet citizens sentenced for collaboration with the

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Germans. As a rule the forced laborers had to work 10 hours each day, but from time to time one day of the week was off. The MVD did not interfere in "camp life". Their measures were restricted to security (to avoid escapes), watching that norms were met and food was issued according to the norms. The power within the camp and even at the work places (as far as distribution of work was concerned) was in the hands of a group of "hard-boiled" criminals called "BLATNOIS". These were usually men who had already committed several murders and did not hesitate to add additional murders, often for the only reason to prove that they were "BLATNOIS". They controlled the mail, i.e. took parcels away from other prisoners, took the best places to sleep, etc. As a rule they did not work. The political prisoners (with some exceptions), weak people and newcomers had to perform double work, unless one or the other proved himself to be a "BLATNOI" by beating up somebody heavily or even killing him. Killing another prisoner resulted in an arrest of 7 to 14 days and an increase of the penalty from 2 to 5 years which meant nothing to the "BLATNOIS". There was neither any form of solidarity nor comradeship among the forced laborers. People were often transferred from brigade to brigade and from camp to camp (S was in 8 different camps within 1 year). This measure increased mistrust and hostility among the inmates. The "BLATNOIS" were the only ones who usually did not suffer from these transfers. They had relations and connections in all camps.

Ford F. Foster
 FORD F. FOSTER
 Capt, USAF
 Commander
 7052 AISS

1 Incl:

1. Overlay of WAC # 100 of MT TEL-POS-IZ.

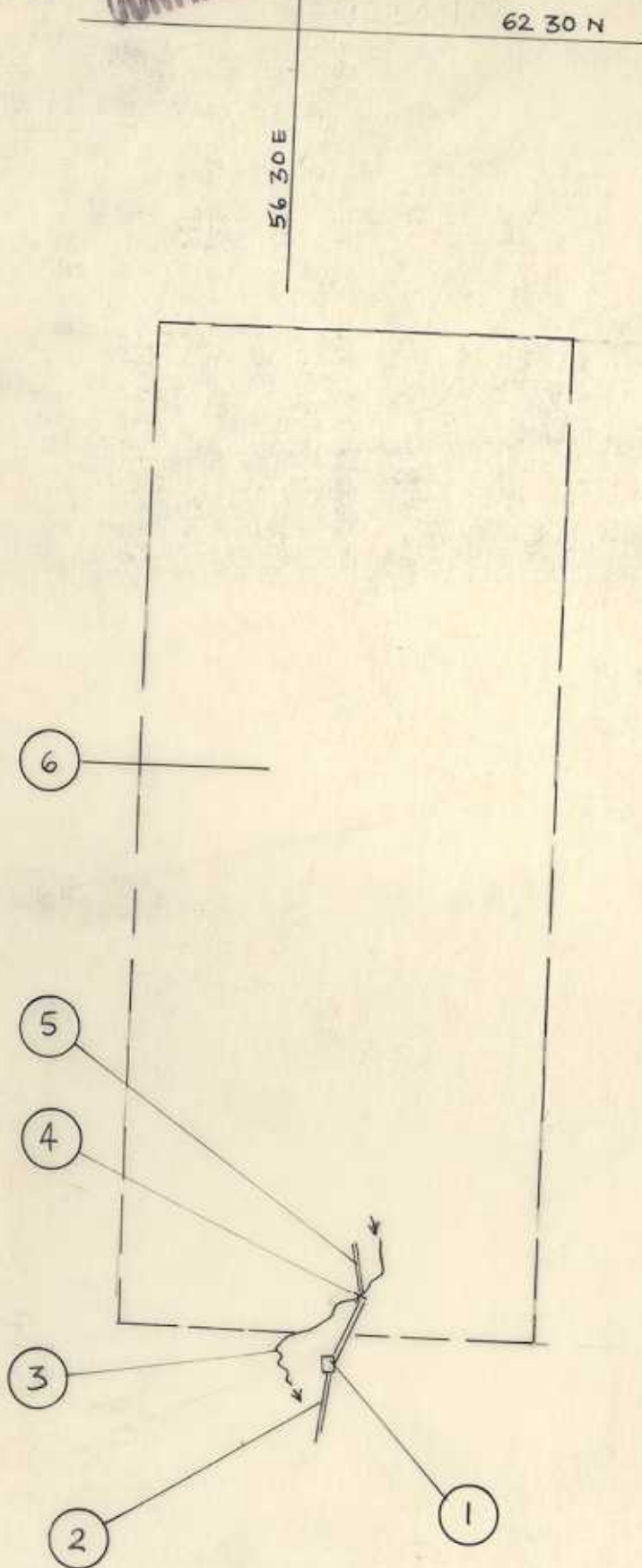
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